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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1907.

There can be no excess to love; none to knowledge; none to beauty, when these attributes are considered in their purest sense.—Emerson.

Fort Fisher.

Greeting to the "Blue and the Gray" who are having a friendly meet, after so many years, at Fort Fisher. There were brave men on both sides in the historic battle of Fort Fisher, and the survivors on both sides must have profound respect each for other.

"The enemy seems at this time," says Mr. Jefferson Davis in his book, "to have conceived a new means of destroying forts: it was to place a large amount of powder in a ship, and, having anchored off the fort, to explode the powder and so destroy the works and incapacitate the garrison as to enable the storming party to capture them. How near to Fort Fisher it was expected to anchor the ship I do not know. General Whiting, the brave and highly accomplished soldier, who was in command of the defenses of Wilmington, stated that the powder-ship did not come nearer to Fort Fisher than 1,500 yards. He further stated that he heard the report of the explosion at Wilmington, and sent a telegram to Colonel Lamb, the commanding officer of the fort, to inquire what it meant, and was answered, 'Enemy's gunboat blown up.' No effect was produced on the fort.

"From the same source it is learned that the combined force of the expedition was about 6,500 land troops and fifty vessels of war of various sizes and classes, several iron-clads and the ships charged with 235 tons of powder. Some of the troops landed, but after a reconnaissance of the fort, which then had a garrison of 6,500 men, the troops were re-embarked and thus the expedition ended."

But this was not the only attempt. "On January 15," continues Mr. Davis, "the attempt was renewed with a larger number of troops, amounting, after the arrival of General Schofield, to twenty-five thousand. Porter's fleet also received additional vessels, making the whole number fifty-eight engaged in the attack. The garrison at Fort Fisher had been increased to double the number of men there on the 24th of December. The iron-clad vessels of the enemy approached nearer the fort than on the former occasion, and the fire of the fleet was more concentrated and vastly more effective. Many of the guns in the fort were dismantled, and the parapets seriously injured by the fire. The garrison stood bravely to their guns, and when the assault was made fought with such determined courage as to repulse the first column, and obstinately contended with another approaching from the land-side, continuing the fight long after they had got into the fort. Finally, overwhelmed by numbers and after the fort and its armament had been mainly destroyed by bombardment—I believe greater than ever concentrated upon a fort—the remnant of the garrison surrendered.

"The heroic and highly gifted General Whiting was mortally and the gallant commander of the fort, Colonel Lamb, was seriously wounded. So fell Fort Fisher, and other forts fell with it. General Hoke Smith, came to the rescue, but this small force was too weak to meet the enemy, and he retired through Wilmington after destroying public property to keep it from falling into the hands of the Federals. The land force of Butler and the fleet of Porter had overwhelmed the little band of Confederates.

"The 'gallant Colonel Lamb,' the hero of Fort Fisher, is Colonel William Lamb, of Norfolk, and his gallantry richly deserved the recognition of President Davis. Colonel Lamb is taking part in the reunion, and will have the lion's share of the honor of the occasion. The 'brave and highly accomplished General Whiting' was William Henry Chase Whiting, whose father was a native of Massachusetts. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1845 at the head of a class in which were Charles P. Stone, Fitz John Porter and Gordon Granger. He became a captain and was assigned to work in the West and South, but when the war broke out he resigned and entered the Confederate service. He was taken to New York, after being captured at Fort Fisher, and lingered until March 20, 1865, when he died. One of the most touching incidents of the whole war is connected with his death. He was a Confederate soldier, but he was an Episcopalian in good standing, and when he died his funeral took place from Trinity Church according to the impressive service for the burial of the dead.

Is It Intermittent?
Will the Eastern Hospital investigation never end? How much longer must the public endure it? What, with its majority reports, its protests and counter protests and all the rest, it has become well-nigh a public nuisance. First we had an investigation by a committee of the Legislature, which dragged along for months at enormous cost to the State. The committee soon split into two partisan factions, and the vote on almost every essential point in issue was four to two. During the investigation there was criminal and recrimination and much talk of bloody encounters. The end came at last, and as a result there were two reports, diametrically opposed in their statements of the situation at the hospital and in their conclusions. One side found Dr. Foster to be a competent and faithful official, and recommended that his services be retained. The other side found him to be incompetent and negligent, and recommended that he be summarily removed.

These reports had hardly been made when the General Hospital Board met and entered an order removing Dr. Foster from office. The Constitution provides that the general board shall have power to remove the superintendent of any hospital for misbehavior, incapacity, neglect of official duty, or acts performed without authority of law. But Dr. Foster refused to obey the order of dismissal and got out a court injunction. The general board then decided to give him a day in court, but Dr. Foster protested that this body was not competent to try him, and had no jurisdiction. The protest was overruled, but the finding of the majority was accompanied with the inevitable minority report from two of the members. This was followed by a "demurrer" from Dr. Foster, but the demurrer was overruled and the trial proceeded. We know not what the verdict will be, but the verdict of the public has already been rendered. The public is very tired of this seemingly interminable and very expensive investigation, and insists that it be brought to a speedy and final conclusion.

Demonstration Fields.
The Virginia Co-operative Association has now completed its arrangements for a number of demonstration fields throughout the State. These fields will be designed to show what science can do for agriculture. The work will be carried on under the direction of Mr. T. O. Sandy, of Nottoway county, who is a practical farmer, and who has put his theories to the test with most satisfactory results. Several years ago he took hold of a body of poor land in Nottoway county, and began to improve it. He did not get immediate results, of course, but in the third year the harvest was more than sufficient to repay him for his entire outlay, and the land was permanently improved. The value of his land has been enhanced tenfold and his farming operations from year to year are very profitable.

What Mr. Sandy has done in Nottoway, other farmers can do in other parts of the State, if they will only adopt his methods. But Mr. Sandy says that the Virginia farmers are so set in their ways that it is hard to move them. He declares that as pupils he would rather have men who knew nothing whatsoever about farming than experienced farmers who are wedded to their own methods. This is not a promising outlook, but we hope that the farmers will at least give Mr. Sandy's methods a fair trial. If they lack faith let them try his plan on a small scale and see what they can do with it. If it has proven successful on his farm, why not on other farms? Go and see his demonstration fields and then put the matter to the test. Suppose all the poor lands in the State could be made ten times, five times, even three times, as productive as they are, what would be worth to the landowners of Virginia? Mr. Sandy is all right. Give him a square deal.

The Law's Delay.
A correspondent of the News Leader calls attention to the following extract from the Constitution of California: Article VII, section 24: "No judge of Superior Court or of the Supreme Court shall, after the 1st of July, 1890, be allowed to draw or receive any monthly salary, unless he shall take and subscribe an affidavit before an officer authorized to administer oaths, that he has no interest in any suit pending in his court, and that he has been submitted for decision for the period of ninety days."

The correspondent says that it is a notorious fact, easily verified, that at least three of the judges of our corporation courts have cases now pending which have been argued and submitted for their decision at least two years ago. The News Leader says that this commutation does not come from Richmond or vicinity, and adds that our judges keep well up with their dockets. We do not dispute the fact, but there is complaint, nevertheless, of the "law's delay" among some of the lawyers of Richmond. The judges themselves know whether or not the complaint is justifiable. If our judges have more work than they can do there should be more courts. The business of our courts should be dispatched with as great promptness as is consistent with the orderly administration of justice. Delays often defeat the very ends of justice and cause great hardships to litigants. The famous case of "Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce" finds many a parallel in court records.

But the judges are not altogether to blame, by any means, for tardy justice. It is often the case that lawyers on one side or the other not only assent to continuances, but fight for it. Before condemning the judges the lawyers should be sure that their own skirts are clear. If the lawyers would co-operate heartily with the judges in speeding the docket, there would be far greater dispatch in court proceedings and far less complaint of the law's delay.

The Ward Plan.
Reference was made in yesterday's paper to a discussion before the Boston Economic Club of the Galveston plan of municipal government. In elaborating the subject, Mr. George Kibbe Turner spoke of the evils of the ward system.

"There are two directly opposite ways of choosing the members of a city government," said he. "The first is by geography; the second by function. That is, in the old form the voter chooses by wards. In the commission form it is according to a candidate's fitness for the work he is to do. The common system of ward representation has been a failure for seventy-five years. Nevertheless, there is always a strong protest against any change, and there will be against this. The chief basis of the opposition is likely to come from the general, half-conscious belief that election by wards is the only really democratic method of choosing city representatives."

"The Galveston commission government is good for exactly the same reasons that the ward government is bad. In the first place, the city votes as a whole for a commission, without being split up into easily manipulated places. In the second place, it chooses men for what they can do, and not for the district in which they are living. In the third place, and best of all, it gives the voter a chance to know what he is voting about."

"Galveston, when the commission took charge of it, was practically bankrupt, her paved streets were gone, her municipal plants and buildings badly wrecked, and her taxpayers in great financial straits. The commission government has brought back the city to a point where it has a credit equal to 10 per cent. of her valuation for the great work of raising the place above the level of the sea, and has operated this city's affairs at a saving of one full third over previous administrations. Besides this, it has cleaned up the place morally and physically. Its success, in fact, has been startling."

Whatever may be said for or against the Galveston plan, the ward plan has proven to be a wretched failure. In a place like Richmond it divides the city into what is equivalent to several small towns, and the representatives in the Council of the several wards look after their section first, and in many instances, the city at large is left to take care of itself. This is said in no disparagement of the councilmen themselves, for to their "constituency" expects them to do that very thing, and the councilmen follow an established precedent. But it is none the less a bad plan, and so long as it is in vogue no city can have the greatest progress in municipal development.

It costs only \$100 to have a man assassinated in Kentucky. An even cheaper sport, however, is slugging the Governor of Arkansas, which, on the scale recently fixed by the courts, can be done at one dollar per slug.

It turns out that the operator implicated in the Baltimore and Ohio wreck at Terra Cotta had about eight hours of the preceding fifty-eight. Those railroad fellows seem to think they have nothing to do but sleep.

The Atlanta Journal says that "Mr. Rockefeller recently gave a check to Princeton. We submit that Mr. Rockefeller has no business to go around giving our colleges the same laces that Mr. Carnegie has already given."

At last! A distinguished Egyptologist has discovered the tomb of Queen Titi of Laxor, the famous consort of Amen Hotep III. Paste this in your hat, and read it when everything else seems to be going against you.

"Never deal an unpleasant duty," says Rockefeller, Jr. So far as the process-servers go, this young man could get some reassuring information from his father.

John D. Rockefeller has just scouted in a 939 new indictment at a single stroke. Whatever line the old gentleman takes up he isn't content with anything less than a monopoly.

Joballey's friends are now fighting for a "limited investigation." The trouble with that kind of investigation, Joe, is that it can bring only a limited vindication.

If convicted on all the counts just turned in against him, Mr. Rockefeller may have to serve 33 years in prison. He may not even get out for the completion of the Panama Canal.

Mme. Melba, says a personal item, is a collector of old furniture. If this were the madame's only claim to fame, however, she would not be so celebrated as the average installment house.

While it seems to be true that Mr. Roosevelt fired at a Virginia gobbler and missed, it is only fair to say that he never missed when it is a matter of firing an ambassador.

There may be, as the W. C. T. U. asserts, seventy-three kinds of cocktails, but the scientific text-books admit only one kind of jag.

While the price of slippers has been greatly advanced, the country parishes will doubtless make it up to the parson in a larger number of book-morasses.

Have you noticed, since the pure food law went into effect, how much more chicken-squeak the potted poultry tastes?

The White House is no no camp, however, that Mr. Shaw is ever likely to catch a cold there.

Mr. Harriman's illness seems to be exclusively confined to his respiratory region.

They have recently captured a wild, hairy man in Mexico, but, unfortunately, it wasn't Senator Tillman.

Rafael will soon be famous enough in his native country to get elected to some board of aldermen over there.

The impression appears to prevail that they're an insane asylum board, all right.

The Sugar Trust faces the prospect of being both fined and reformed.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

On the average 235 alien children under fourteen years old arrive in New York City each year.

Every effort possible is being made to use native words for ties in building the railways in the Philippines.

A Japanese shoe manufacturing concern has secured a contract for shoes for the British Army in India. It is one of the largest shoe contracts ever placed.

New York City transportation facilities are as inadequate as they were before the subway was built, although these underground highways carried \$4,000,000 passengers in 1906.

Statistics of the Board of Health show that the general death rate in New York City is decreasing, but the death rate among the four groups of acute respiratory troubles, cancer, diseases of the heart and diseases of the kidneys.

Prof. Brander Matthews, of Columbia University, has received the decoration of the Legion of Honor from the French government in recognition of his service to literature in connection with the study of the French drama.

Slam's task industry is handicapped by the stealing of elephants. Last year three firms of thirty-three elephants, worth \$3,000,000, were stolen from the Congo.

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